

REMARKS:

In the outstanding Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1-26. Claims 1, 6, 11, 16-26 are amended herein, and new claim 27 is added. No new matter is presented. Thus, claims 1-27 are pending and under consideration. The rejections are traversed below.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103(a):

Claims 1-26 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over various combinations of U.S. Patent No. 5,978,828 (Greer), U.S. Patent No. 6,259,442 (Britt) and U.S. Patent No. 5,978,807 (Mano).

Greer requires a user to configure or assign values in a setup window to trigger a download of a content change of a web page (see, col. 1, lines col. 7, lines 20-22). The download of the web page is triggered only when a value defined or configured by the user is met (see, col. 3, lines 14-57 and col. 7, lines 23-33). That is, Greer is limited to configuring the setup window for triggering the download of the web page at a client electronic system in response to conditions defined by a user and then transmitting the conditions to the server electronic system to cause the download using the Internet.

The Examiner acknowledges that Greer does not teach that the predetermined condition is set by the server independent of the client system, but relies on Britt as teaching the same. However, Britt is directed to remotely downloading software upgrades to a client over a satellite link when a user accepts the upgrade. In Britt, a connection script is executed to establish communication with a server (5) and an upgrade of the software is downloaded without informing the user of the upgrade (see, FIGS. 7 and 8 and corresponding text). That is, Britt downloads software upgrades automatically without causing users to view contents located at the IP address from which the download is obtained.

The Examiner relies on the combination of Greer, Britt and Mano to reject dependent claims 3-5, 8-10, and 13-15. However, similar to Greer, Mano requires a user to specify conditions using which a web page is to be downloaded using a user interface program of a computer system (see, column 2, lines 38-44).

The present invention automatically creates a notification for inducing users to re-access a homepage at a server and transmits the notification to a client system. For example, the present invention provides a notification using facsimile, e-mail, etc., to induce users to re-access a homepage. Further, the information for inducing the client system is not limited to

update information with respect to the web page and includes, for example, advertising with respect to the web page so that a user of the client system is encouraged to revisit the web page.

Independent claim 1, for example, recites, “automatically creating in the server system, a notification which includes information for inducing the client system to a homepage when a predetermined condition is satisfied” and “automatically transmitting the notification to the client system using a different medium than a web page browsing medium”.

Independent claims 6 and 18 recite, “automatically transmitting a notification which includes said information with respect to the client system using a different means than used to access the homepage, when a predetermined condition is satisfied with reference to said point in time”. Similarly, independent claim 16 recites, “a notifying part which automatically transmits a notification, using a different medium than used to access to the homepage”, where the predetermined condition is set by the server system independent of the client system”.

Independent claims 17 also recite that the present invention includes, “automatically transmitting the notification to the client system using a different medium than used to access to the homepage”.

Independent claims 19 and 20 recite, “a notifying part [to] automatically transmit a notification using a different medium than used to access the data”, which “the client system last accessed”.

The present invention sends the notification “independent of a web browser useable to access the homepage” (claim 21), “using a different medium than used to access the web server” or “homepage” (claims 11 and 22-24) and “via a medium independent of a browser used to access the homepage” (claim 26).

Further, independent claim 25 recites, “... the notification including advertisement information related to the homepage and information transmitted independent of a medium used to access the homepage”, where the notification is “automatically” sent to the client system “in accordance with a predetermined condition set by a server system independent of the client system”.

The cited references, alone or in combination, do not teach or suggest the claimed features of independent claims 1, 6, 11 and 16-26.

For at least the above-mentioned reasons, claims depending from independent claims

are patentably distinguishable over Greer. The dependent claims are also independently patentable. For example, as recited in claims 3, 8 and 13, "said predetermined condition is formed by a lapse of a predetermined time from said point in time". The cited references do not teach or suggest these features of claims 3, 8 and 13.

Therefore, withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

NEW CLAIM:

New claim 27 is added to emphasize "the second access to the homepage [is] responsive to the transmitted notification" upon a first access to the homepage "to induce a second access to the homepage by the client system". This enables a homepage provider to transmit "the notification independent of a web browser useable to access the homepage" when a condition set by the homepage provider is met. The cited references do not teach or suggest these features of new claim 27.

Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that new claim 27 is patentably distinguishable over the cited references.

CONCLUSION:

There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.

If there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

STAAS & HALSEY LLP

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